

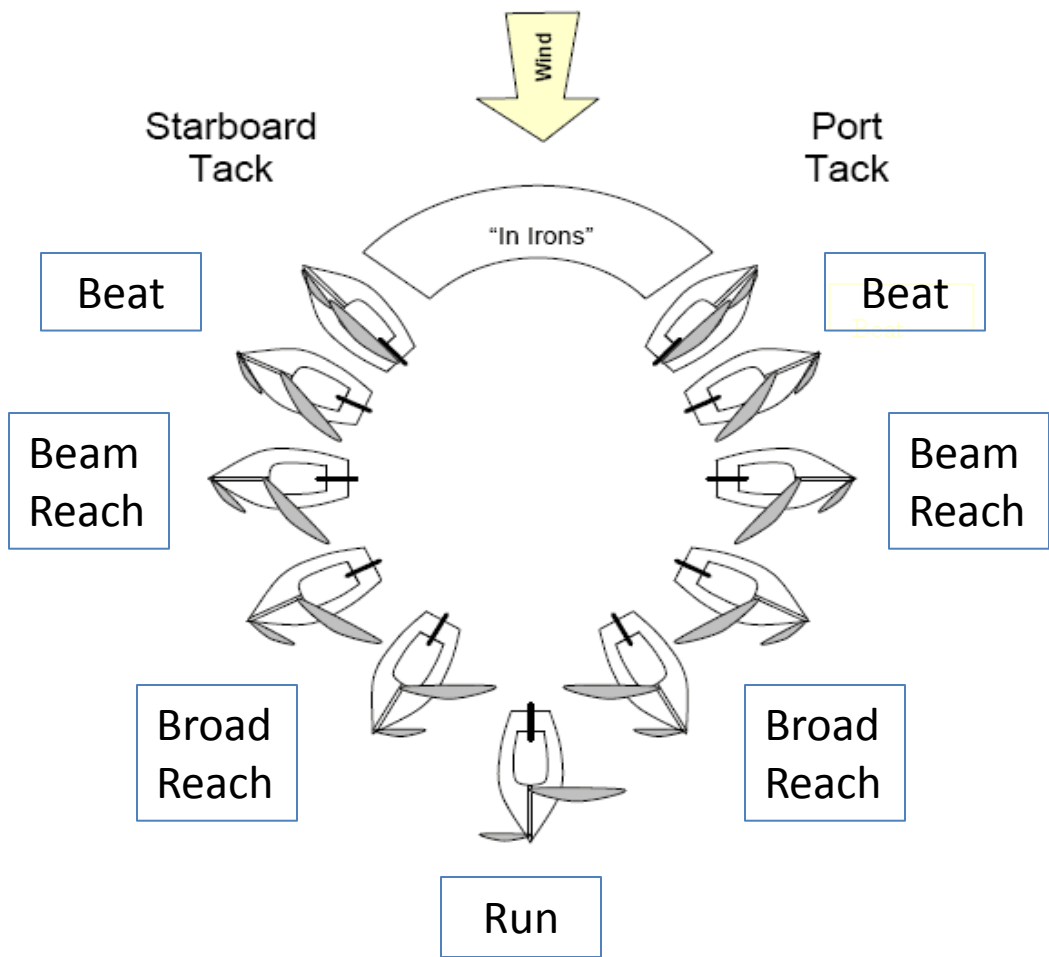


# Tell-tales – what tales do they tell?

- Tell-tales are small ribbons on the sail or rigging that can be used to show wind direction or behavior – they react before the sail so can be used to help sail the boat more efficiently.
- Tell-tales on the jib indicate the airflow over the sail. When tell-tales are “breaking” or “fluttering” airflow is disturbed and you are not sailing efficiently for the sail as it is trimmed –
  - ***Beating – correct by steering the boat***
  - ***Reaching/Running – correct by trimming the jib***
  - ***Wind velocity can affect tell-tales (lifting up in heavier air, drooping in light air), but that’s not “breaking” or “fluttering”***
- Main sail tell-tales can be used for fine-tuning. Generally, streaming back is desirable.



# Using Tell-tales to Determine Point of Sail



Check the tell-tales on your shrouds (side stays):

- 45 degrees off the wind? **Beating**
- 90 degrees off the wind? **Beam Reach**
- Wind over aft quarter? **Broad Reach**
- Wind behind you? **Running** (are you preparing to jibe?)

*Adjust your centerboard and sails to your point of sail*



# Points of Sail

The term “point of sail” refers to the boat’s position relative to the wind.

As you change from one point of sail to another (move the tiller), your sail trim and centerboard position must be changed also.

Beat – sails trimmed in, sailing 45 degrees to the wind, board down.

Beam Reach – sailing perpendicular to the wind, sails trimmed about half-way in, board half-way down.

Broad Reach – sailing with wind coming over aft quarter of boat, sails  $\frac{3}{4}$  out and board mostly up.

Run – sailing with wind directly behind the boat, sails all the way out and centerboard is up.



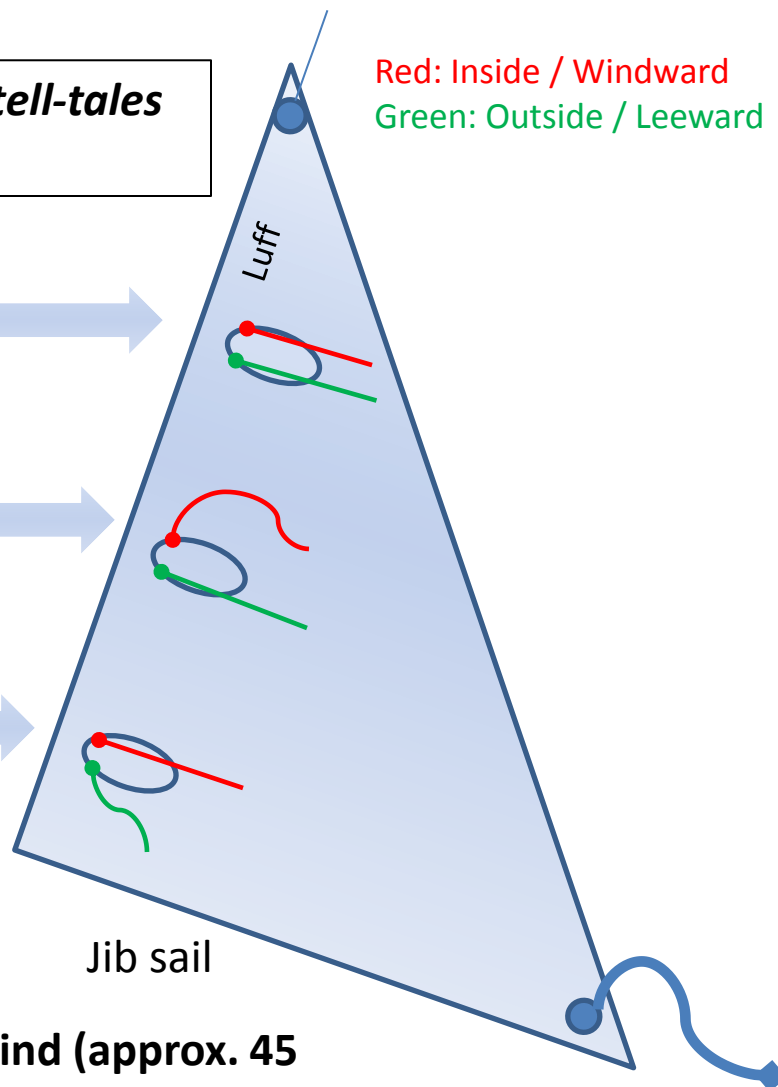
# Jib Tell-tales: Beating Three Tell-tale Situations

***When beating skipper should correct breaking tell-tales  
by steering the boat***

(1) Both streaming back – course steered is  
as close to the wind as possible

(2) Windward (inside) tell-tale is breaking  
you are “pinching” & need to fall off

(3) Leeward (outside) tell-tale is breaking –  
head up (steer closer to the wind)



**Jib tell-tales when beating - sailing close to the wind (approx. 45  
degrees) with sails trimmed in, centerboard down completely  
(jib shown here on port tack)**



# Jib Tell-tales: Reaching/Running

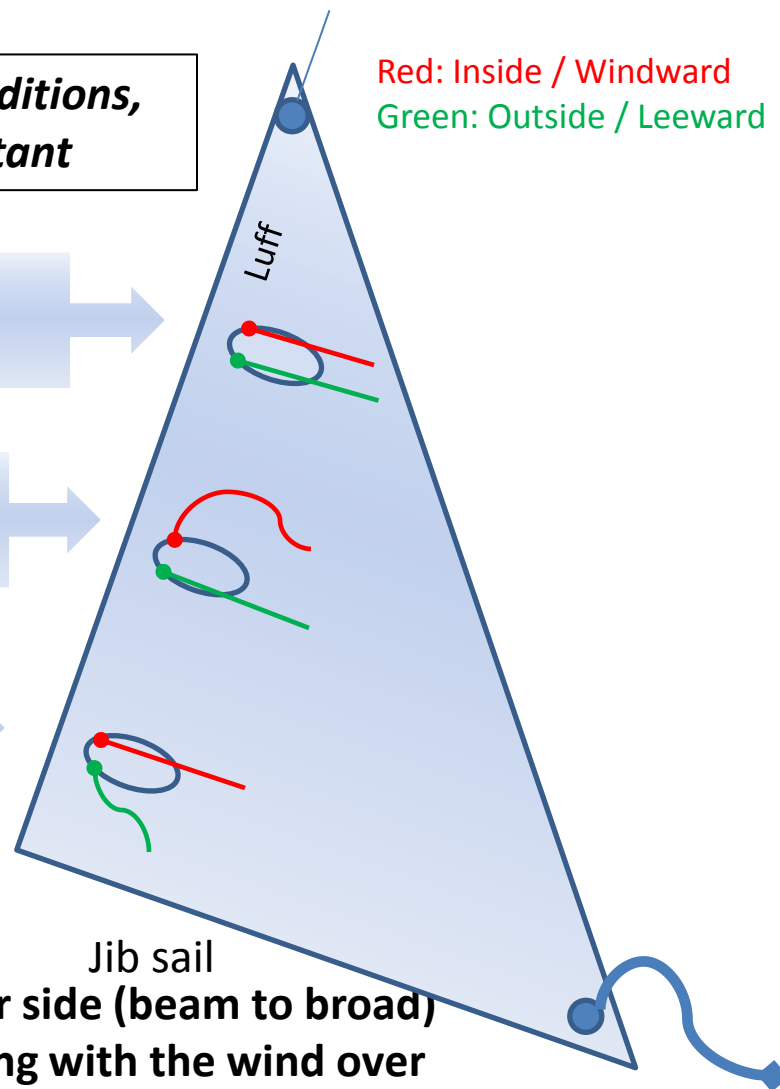
## Three Tell-tale Situations

***When reaching or running trim the jib to the conditions, but the leeward (outside) tell-tale is more important***

(1) Both streaming back – jib is trimmed correctly for the point of sail

(2) Windward (inside) tell-tale is breaking – trim the jib sheet

(3) Leeward (outside) tell-tale is breaking – ease the sheet



Jib tell-tales when reaching - sailing with wind over side (beam to broad) of boat, centerboard partially up, or running - sailing with the wind over the stern of the boat, centerboard up  
(jib shown here on port tack)